



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 4 Headquarters

4600 Giant Springs Road

Great Falls, MT 59405

DECISION RECORD

Transfer of Westslope Cutthroat Trout from O'Brien Creek (Belt Creek Drainage) to Tyrell Creek (Smith River Drainage)

Receiving Water:

Name of Water: Tyrell Creek
Region: 4 County: Cascade
Legal Description: T14N,R1W,sec3
Water Code: 17-7958 Drainage: Smith

Donating Water:

Name of Water: O'Brien Creek
Region: 4 County: Cascade
Legal description: T13N,R8E,sec29
Water Code: 17-5584 Drainage: Belt

Fish Species Proposed for Introduction: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) propose transferring non-hybridized juvenile and adult westslope cutthroat trout (WCT - *Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi*) to Tyrell Creek (Smith River Drainage) from O'Brien Creek (Belt Drainage). In the fall of 2000, Tyrell Creek (including Hound Creek Reservoir and Pole Creek) were treated with rotenone to remove non-native and undesirable fish species. Non-native fish that survived the treatment were removed using nets and electrofishing equipment from 2001 to 2006. Fish were to be transferred to Tyrell Creek from N. Fk. Deep Creek and Jumping Creek (Decision Notice published June 26 2008). Recent results from genetic samples collected just prior to this transfer indicate the N. Fk. Deep Creek WCT population is hybridized (Jumping Creek WCT were transferred during spring and summer of 2008). Under this proposal 75 to 125 fish would be transferred by truck over a two to three year period. Fish from O'Brien Creek have tested negative for potential fish diseases. No more than 10% of the estimated population's fish ≥ 6 inches and no more than 20% of the population's fish < 6 inches will be moved.

Description of Public Notification/Review Process: The Environmental Assessment was put on the web (Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Public Notices Website) on 4/13/2005. The comment period ended 5/13/2005. There will be an internal review by the FWP Fish Health Committee prior to transfer of WCT.

Summary of Public Comments: No comments were received

Recommendation: Transfer westslope cutthroat trout as described in the environmental assessment.

George Ziknes

9/19/2008